

Newport *Hospital*

2025

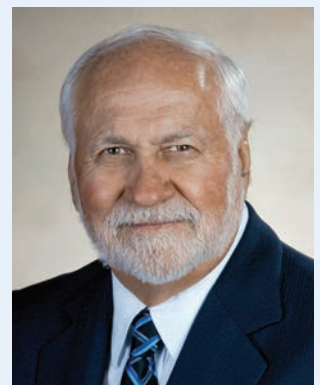




Every day at Newport Hospital, we witness the powerful connections that form—between patients and clinicians, quality and compassion, and our hospital and the incredible community we serve. As part of Brown University Health, the state's largest academic health system, Newport Hospital offers exceptional care here on Aquidneck Island.

I want to take a moment to mention that later this year, I'll be stepping down from my role as Chairman of Brown University Health's Board of Directors and passing the baton to Samuel Menco. Sam graduated from Brown University in 1978, served as Chancellor from 2016 to 2024 and has been a member of the Brown Corporation since 2003. He also co-founded and is a senior advisor at a Chicago-based private equity firm. Sam's experience with business, healthcare, and education make him uniquely qualified to guide Brown Health into the future. As I prepare for this transition, I want to take this opportunity to thank you, our Newport Hospital donors, for your unending generosity.

None of what we do would be possible without your continued support. Thank you for being vital to Newport Hospital's legacy and future.



LAWRENCE A. AUBIN SR.

Chairman,
Brown University Health
Board of Directors

Chairman, Newport Hospital
Board of Trustees

COVER: Margaret and James Nolan, MD
(See page 8 for the full story)



Sarah Frost

A top priority at Newport Hospital is to ensure that all Aquidneck Islanders have access to world-class healthcare close to home. As you can imagine, delivering on that promise can be challenging, but with every challenge comes opportunity.

It is our privilege to welcome Newport Hospital President and Chief Medical Officer, Tenny Thomas, MD, to the Aquidneck Island community and Brown University Health this summer. His passion for increasing healthcare quality and safety, fostering a culture of innovation, and improving patient outcomes will be critical here at Newport Hospital and throughout the Brown Health system. *(See page 4 for a Q&A with Dr. Thomas.)*

In this issue, we also provide an exciting update on our Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit, highlight the extraordinary legacy gift of a longtime donor couple, and tell you about an outdoor therapeutic space coming to Newport Hospital soon.

As you read through the magazine, please know that it's the generosity and active support of caring people like you that makes so much of our lifesaving work possible. So, thank you for being by our side and for helping Newport Hospital improve the health and well-being of the community we serve in tangible, meaningful ways.

With heartfelt appreciation,

SARAH FROST

Chief of Hospital Operations, Brown University Health

President, Rhode Island Hospital and Hasbro Children's

CAROL BAZARSKY

Chair, Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees



Carol Bazarsky

WITH
Gratitude

“For someone in a dark place, like I was, Vanderbilt is a bright light and a real gem.”

—Bennett Hirsch, grateful patient
(See page 5 for his full story)

When It Comes to Gratitude, Sharing is Caring

We regularly receive letters from patients, like Bennett, expressing their gratitude—and we're grateful for each and every one. Why? Because sharing appreciation creates the positive power to heal, to inspire, and to connect people in deeply profound ways.

Our “with Gratitude” program aims to keep this energy going and make it easier for people to express their feelings about Newport Hospital.

To learn more about the program—and share your own grateful patient story or show support—please visit:
giving.brownhealth.org/newport/gratitude.



Meet Newport Hospital's New President and Chief Medical Officer



Tenny Thomas, MD

Tenny Thomas, MD, FACEP, MHL, has been appointed President and Chief Medical Officer (CMO) of Newport Hospital. Dr. Thomas comes to Newport Hospital from Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital-Plymouth, where he served as their CMO since 2018. Below, Dr. Thomas shares some thoughts on his new role, the power of philanthropy, and what he likes to do when he's not at work.

What motivated you to come to Newport Hospital?

The biggest motivation was Newport Hospital's stellar reputation. It has a storied past and a bright future and is held in the highest regard with respect to the level of comprehensive, compassionate patient care it delivers. It's quite uncommon for a community hospital of its size to be a state-of-the-art, top-tier healthcare facility capable of offering such a wide array of services. The hospital being part of Brown University Health, a renowned academic medical system, was also a motivating factor. That expanded partnership and access to resources, education, and research means Newport Hospital is well-positioned to meet the healthcare needs of its patients from Aquidneck Island and beyond.

As you settle into your new role, what are some areas of focus for you?

First and foremost, to carry on Newport Hospital's legacy of exceptional care delivery and maintain the high standards of quality and safety that have been set here. Building on those successes will be important as well. So, looking for opportunities to increase access to care, improve care coordination and outcomes, strategically grow our service lines, and best leverage our Brown Health system affiliation are all priorities.

How do you see philanthropy supporting Newport Hospital's driving mission?

Philanthropy not only supports the hospital's mission but also enables it. Our donors are representative and reflective of the community we serve—because they are both supporters and patients. As such, in addition to their generosity, they are able to provide us with unique perspectives and valuable feedback on a host of community health and hospital-specific issues. It's a partnership in that sense, and what we learn can help to inform our decision-making as far as how we invest philanthropic dollars.

What do you do when you're not at work?

I've lived in the region for 20-plus years, so I'm pretty connected to the Newport community. Some of the things I enjoy on the island are the Newport Jazz Festival, playing squash at my gym, and sailing. I also love to travel and spend time with my family. I have a daughter in college and twins, a boy and a girl, in eighth grade. They keep me busy, too.

Vanderbilt Helps Bring Bennett Back

“I was feeling pretty depressed and down about my health and lack of independence before I got to Vanderbilt. But after, I was buoyed up and ready to face the world . . .”

—Bennett Hirsch



By any measure, Bennett Hirsch has led a very physically active life. Among many other things, he’s been a marathon runner, ski instructor, sailor, and mountain climber. He’s done all of it with great gusto, too. For example, Bennett achieved Adirondack 46er status for ascending all 46 high peaks in the famous New York State mountains with elevations of 4,000 feet or higher.

“What can I say,” he jokes, “I just don’t know how to do stuff halfway.”

Unfortunately, the impact of Bennett’s ultra demanding athletic pursuits on his body has been no laughing matter. “I really destroyed my back over the years,” he concedes, “which eventually led me to needing surgeries.”

His most recent procedure was a total laminectomy in the fall of 2024. The surgery included the removal of the arched back piece of Bennett’s vertebrae, called the lamina, to create more space within his spinal canal and reduce the pressure on his spinal cord and nerve roots, which was causing Bennett considerable pain and discomfort.

That operation was successful, but complications from a previous back surgery four years ago—which weren’t detected or treated—exacerbated Bennett’s condition and caused neuropathy, drop foot, and bladder issues.

Faced with these challenging health issues, the rehabilitation component of his post-operative care would need to be delivered at an exceptionally high level if Bennett had any chance of returning to everyday functionality.

Fortunately, the staff at Newport Hospital’s Vanderbilt Rehabilitation Center are just as driven and determined as Bennett and deeply invested in their patients’ recovery.

Over three-and-a-half weeks in Vanderbilt’s 24-hour therapeutic environment, Bennett received direct nursing care and intensive physician-directed therapies, education, and training. His personalized care plan combined occupational and physical therapy aided by adaptive technologies, like a “mock” car to practice getting in and out of.

The goal was to support Bennett’s return home and ensure he could live as independently as possible once he got there—and it’s working. “I couldn’t walk, stand, shower, or go to the bathroom by myself when I got to Vanderbilt,” Bennett recounts. “But when I left, I could do all those things and more.”

Today, Bennett says he’s “about 50 percent” back to his former self and getting stronger every day. He’s able to drive his car, do most daily tasks, and enjoy various activities and outings with his wife Dori and their three 20-something children. Recently, Bennett also returned to his job as a child and adolescent psychologist. None of this, he adds, would have been possible without the care he received at Newport Hospital.

“I was feeling pretty depressed and down about my health and lack of independence before I got to Vanderbilt,” Bennett admits. “But after, I was buoyed up and ready to face the world. For someone in a dark place, like I was, Vanderbilt is a bright light and a real gem.”

Donor Support Brings Lifesaving Adolescent Behavioral Health Care to Aquidneck Island



James P. Nolan, MD and Peggy Nolan Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit

It began with a promise that no Aquidneck Island adolescent in crisis should have to leave their community to get the mental healthcare they need. With one in five Rhode Island children ages 6 to 17 having a diagnosable mental health disorder, and no local inpatient services for adolescents in crisis, the gap was urgent and clear.

In July 2023, Newport Hospital formally launched a \$5 million campaign to bring that vision to life by creating an Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU) in partnership with world-renowned Bradley Hospital.

To help bring the need into focus, then-18-year-old Ignacio shared his experience navigating a mental health crisis and the challenges of accessing care far from home.

Thanks to extraordinary philanthropic support, the campaign didn't just meet its goal—it exceeded it—raising more than \$5 million. The community helped compress what is typically a multi-year fundraising, permitting, and renovation process into just two years, making it

“This extraordinary addition to Newport Hospital is the direct result of donors stepping forward to ensure no family in our region has to face a behavioral health crisis without local support.”

—Carol Bazarsky

possible to turn a bold vision into a real solution for local youth in crisis.

The unit will welcome its first patients later this year. It marks a powerful response to the mental

health crisis facing Rhode Island youth, particularly on Aquidneck Island, where local inpatient services have not existed until now.



Ignacio, patient

Now 20 and thriving in college, Ignacio reflects with gratitude and pride on the impact his story helped spark.

“I told my story hoping it might make a difference,” Ignacio says. “To know that this unit is opening and kids like me won’t have to leave the community for help means everything.”

The eight-bed unit will provide short-term inpatient stabilization, assessment, and treatment for adolescents ages 12 to 18. In addition to clinical spaces, the thoughtfully designed unit includes bright group therapy rooms, an activity space, and an enclosed healing garden, all tailored to support the needs of young patients.

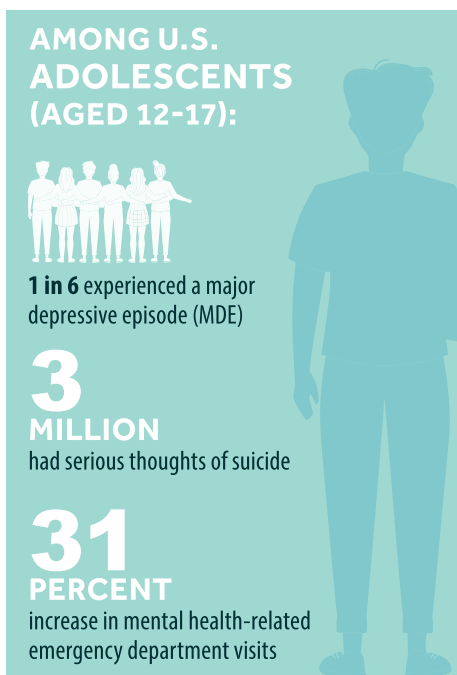
This summer, principal donors will be invited for exclusive hard hat tours, offering a behind-the-scenes look at the nearly completed space and the opportunity to witness the tangible impact of their giving.

“This extraordinary addition to Newport Hospital is the direct result of donors stepping forward to ensure no family in our region has to face a behavioral health crisis without local support,” shares Carol Bazarsky, Chair of the Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees. Following the opening of the ABHU, Newport Hospital will continue to play a vital role in sustaining and expanding adolescent behavioral healthcare on the island. Planning is already underway for future programming, including potential partial hospitalization services and strong community-based partnerships with Newport Mental Health and Newport Public Schools.

“This unit and the addition of available beds for patients in crisis will be a game-changer for families,” says Lisa Lima-Tessier, MS, RN, Director of Newport Hospital’s Emergency Department. “Parents will no longer have to choose between long waits or long drives to find care. They’ll have access to compassionate, specialized support right here in their own community.”

For families who have waited too long for local access to these services and for young people like Ignacio, the unit opening is a testament to what’s possible when a community comes together to meet a need. It’s not just a new unit; it’s a new beginning.

DID YOU KNOW?



A behind-the-scenes look at the nearly completed space



Elizabeth Leatherman, Anne Hamilton and Barbara van Beuren

Leaving a Legacy to Change and Save Lives



James and Peggy Nolan

It's the type of phone call hospitals dream of receiving. It was late 2023 and Margaret, affectionately known as "Peggy," and her husband, James Nolan, MD, were in the midst of determining the planned gifts they would leave to charity from their estate. The couple, who built a home in Portsmouth 20 years ago, wanted to arrange for a significant gift to Newport Hospital.

"When we approached Newport Hospital with our intention, we asked about the community's greatest need," recalls James, who was born and raised in Scotland. "We were all ears when they spoke of the mental health crisis among youth."

Peggy and James are quick to share that medicine has been very good to them throughout their lives. During their careers, Dr. Nolan was an accomplished chief of pathology and medical director, and Peggy oversaw clinical laboratories and was a highly respected medical

administrator. Over the years, their work took them across the country and around the globe. At every step, helping and caring for children was always a priority.

In the 1970s, James was recruited by Project Hope to serve aboard the SS Hope, a former U.S. Navy ship turned floating hospital by President Eisenhower to provide medical care to underdeveloped countries. He spent months delivering care to children in Columbia and Guatemala, treating blood disorders and facial malformations, establishing blood banks, and more.

"That's a time in my life that I'll never forget," says James. "Those efforts saved a lot of children and was one of my most rewarding experiences."

Peggy and James would learn that one in five Rhode Island children between the ages of 6 and 17 has a diagnosable mental health disorder, and that thousands more suffer in silence. In the wake of the COVID-19

pandemic, demand for adolescent and pediatric behavioral health services rose to crisis level, prompting the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry to declare a state of emergency in child health.

In Newport County, young people struggling with mental health challenges face an even greater barrier. Living on the island, there isn't an option for local acute care for families—the state's limited behavioral health beds are all located in the Providence area.

So, when Newport Hospital detailed its plans to create a new Adolescent Behavioral Health Unit (ABHU) by transforming an existing area of the hospital into space to serve youths ages 12 to 18, the Nolans were all in. The couple committed to a \$5 million planned gift in support of ABHU.

"When we were practicing medicine, this wasn't the need it is today. But having always been committed to helping children, supporting the ABHU project was a natural progression of a passion we share," explains James.

The Nolans, in particular, were drawn to Newport Hospital prioritizing a direct response to the needs of its community. ABHU will provide stabilization, assessment, and treatment to vulnerable young people when they need it most—and will do so close to home.

As the ABHU project began to take shape, the need in the community for the services it would provide continued to escalate. And again, the Nolans stepped up.

To expedite the start of the unit's construction, Peggy and James earmarked an immediate \$1 million of their gift to support the build. The couple's selfless generosity helped to accelerate the project's entire timeline, and a groundbreaking was realized last November. The remainder of their transformational planned gift has been designated for an endowment that will help fund the delivery of ABHU's services into the future.

Once complete, the unit will be named in recognition of the Nolan's leadership support.

"From the very first moment we spoke, the genuine compassion that Peggy and James have for others was unmistakable—they are incredibly special people who care deeply about making a real difference," says Emily Manocchio, Newport Hospital's Donor Relations Officer. "We are both honored and humbled that they chose Newport Hospital as a partner of their philanthropy and for taking such a thoughtful approach to their legacy. Their gift will have an impact on generations to come."

While their careers took them all over, the last place Peggy and James worked together was a community hospital, which further solidified for them just how vital they are to those who live nearby.

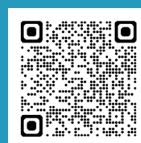
"Twenty years ago, we didn't know much about Newport Hospital or Aquidneck Island, but today, we could not be more in love with this great community we call home," says Peggy. "And when you have a hospital of such caliber and importance right in your backyard, you want to support it."

The Power of Planned Giving

Including Newport Hospital in your estate plans with a bequest is a meaningful way to positively impact future generations of our patients and their families. These special gifts help us provide the very best care to everyone in our community.

With the help of an attorney, you can add a bequest to the hospital in your will or trust. You can also name us as a beneficiary of a 401(k), IRA, life insurance policy, or donor advised fund, and this can often be done in a matter of minutes by contacting the financial institution holding your account. No matter how you choose to remember Newport Hospital, a gift of any amount will be greatly appreciated and can be directed to support a specific area or the greatest needs of the hospital.

Please contact us at 401-845-1763 or nhgiving@brownhealth.org with questions, to request sample will language, or to let us know if you have already included us in your estate plans so that we can invite you to join our Living Heritage Society. **For more information, please visit us at brownhealth.org/NHLegacy**



Foundation Board 2025: Recognizing Exemplary Service

The Newport Hospital Foundation Board added several new officers and trustees this year and welcomed back a number of members who are continuing their terms in 2025.

Individually and collectively, this special group contributes their time and talent to Newport Hospital, serving as ambassadors to our community and fostering fundraising success that has a meaningful impact on patient care.

New additions

Four loyal Newport Hospital supporters and community stalwarts joined—or rejoined—the Board of Trustees in 2025 and took on new roles. They are:

Sarah Schochet-Henken, Secretary

A standing Foundation Board member since 2017, Sarah became the new Secretary on January 1, 2025. Co-owner of Holistic Wellness Center & Gift Emporium in Medfield, Massachusetts, Sarah has been an active and generous supporter of Newport Hospital for more than a decade. She has also served as a Corporator and Governor.

Frank J. Byrne, CPA, Treasurer

Frank was recently promoted to Vice President of Finance for The Miriam and Newport hospitals. At which time, he also assumed the role of the Foundation Board's new Treasurer. Frank holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accountancy from Bentley University and a Master of Business Administration Degree in Finance from Providence College.

Barbara Odegard, Trustee

A Corporator since 2021, Barbara has been a generous supporter of Newport Hospital for many years. She holds a Juris Doctor Degree from the William & Mary School, and has been active in the community, serving on the boards of various local nonprofit organizations including The Potter League for Animals, Clagett Sailing, and others.

Holly M. Bannister, MD, Trustee

A former pediatric emergency medicine doctor, Holly is rejoining the Newport Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees in 2025; she served from 2015 to 2023 as well. For nearly two decades, she has been a generous supporter of the hospital and, since 2014, a dedicated member of our Gala Event Committee, where she's helped raise millions of dollars for Newport Hospital.

Newport Hospital Foundation 2025 Board of Trustees

Carol R. Bazarsky, Chair
Barbara van Beuren, Vice Chair
Sarah Schochet-Henken,
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Frank Byrne*, Treasurer
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Isabella Dana Ridall
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Life Trustee

*ex-officio without a vote

Outdoor Therapeutic Space Coming to Newport Hospital

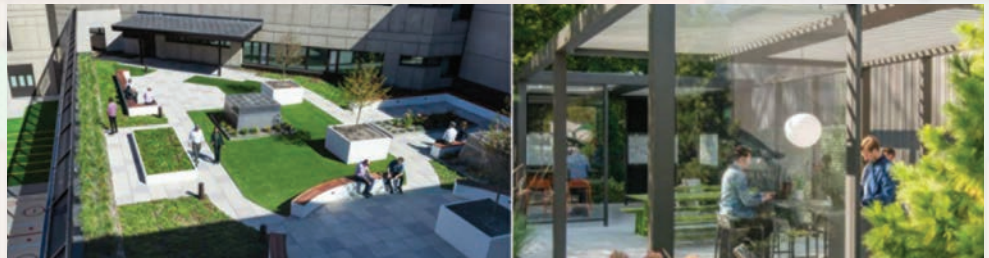
Soon, Newport Hospital patients will have access to an outdoor therapeutic space on campus that will support their healing and recovery, enhance their physical functionality, and promote their overall health and well-being.

“The space, which will be located just outside the main elevator lobby on the first floor, will be available to all Newport Hospital patients,” says Pamela Mace, Director of Facilities Services & Planning at Brown University Health, “but it will be outfitted with a special focus on serving patients from our Vanderbilt Rehabilitation and Brown Health Cancer centers.” The new environment, she adds, will offer those patients a combination of simulation equipment, sensory features, and natural elements to foster a holistic, enhanced patient experience and mimic real-world conditions.

“We designed the space to provide patients with an opportunity to navigate many of the obstacles they will encounter when they return home,” Pam explains, “like walking on gravel, grass, and uneven surfaces; climbing stairs and ramps; stepping on curbs; or opening a gate or a mailbox.”

In the future, the goal is to have aromatic plants, such as lavender and rosemary, abound in the space to create a “garden-like” environment that stimulates patients’ senses. Sun/shade seating throughout will also be part of the layout to accommodate private conversations, quiet reflection, or relaxation.

In addition to serving its intended population, it’s expected that the aesthetically pleasing space will be particularly beneficial to patients with developmental or motor coordination challenges, seniors needing fall prevention



and balance training, and people receiving treatment for behavioral health issues. It will also be a welcoming, restorative spot for those simply seeking respite during an extended hospitalization.

“Once completed, the space will be a transformative addition to Newport Hospital that will help a lot of people,” Pam concludes.

The multi-staged effort to create the outdoor therapeutic environment gets underway soon and should be completed later this year or in early 2026.

The outdoor therapeutic space is being funded, in large part, by philanthropy. A lead gift from BankNewport and additional support from Pariseault Builders will help to make this dream project a reality, and Newport Hospital is grateful to these donors for their generosity.



Newport Hospital
Foundation

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INVITE YOU TO

Newport Hospital's

Family Festival

AT PEABODY'S BEACH

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

2:00–6:00 PM

818 3RD BEACH RD, MIDDLETOWN, RI 02842

For information on sponsorship opportunities please
contact Erin Dollard at 401-845-1619 or edollard@brownhealth.org



Bring the whole family and join us for an afternoon of seaside fun, delicious beach fare, good vibes and games for all ages—celebrating our community and the care Newport Hospital provides.

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